16 The Brunswickan

TALKING WITH...

by Melynda Jaratt

One hundred years after Mary Tibbits graduated from the University of New Brunswick, the newly reorganized UNB Drama Society is producing a play to celebrate her achievement timed to coincide with International Women's Day on March 8.

The play Talking With..., was written in 1983 by American playwright Jane Martin and is based on the experiences of a collection of women who in both a figurative and literal sense are on the fringes of the society in which they live.

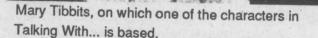
Although Mary Tibbits is not a character in Martin's play, her experiences as the first woman graduate of UNB are seen through the eyes of a former classmate and friend. Bertha Chase, who introduces and hosts the production in a monologue especially written for the production by the assistant director and Stage Manager, Linda McNutt.

Chase entered UNB in 1885 with Mary Tibbits after a long struggle against the University's Senate, which refused to admit them because they were women. Tibbits graduated in 1889. Chase dropped out along the way and since then has become a ghost in the history of women at UNB.

Bertha Chase begins the evening by introducing the play and its characters to the audience. Leading into the other characters to follow, she says "I have a footnote. These women have tonight."

Producer Pam Lougheed says "Bertha Chase was not only a classmate of Mary Tibbits who didn't finish her Like the other studies. women who make up the characters in this play, Chase represents women on the outside, whose lives have been marginalized and who. due to circumstances or destiny, we never heard from again. Compared to her more famous classmate, Mary Tibbits, she is lost to us and to history."

UNB Drama Society Play About Women



only a small part of the overall production," explains Lougheed. "The characters here come from all segments of society. They are like a microcosm of women's experience. so it seems appropriate that we have this play, along with Bertha Chase as host, staged concurrently with International Women's Day and the centenary of Mary Tibbits graduation."

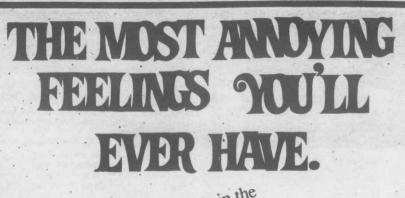
Director. Jenny Munday, who had developed an impressive reputation around the Atlantic region as an actor and writer, explains that the characters in Talking With... are not your conventional heroines of drama. "Indeed," Munday comments, "the characters in Talking With... seem to have climbed out of a longlocked closet of eccentricity."

There is Alain: a woman covered with tattoos down

humdrum life as a housewife. and there is Lila: a woman of 65 who has 12 lamps in her loft that she talks to, each lamp a substitute for real people she has met in her life.

Talking With... has received considerable support from the University of New Brunswick. Dr. Peter Kent, Dean of Arts, has contributed over \$500 towards the project from the faculty, and the Office of the President, James Downey, has provided \$1,000 to assist with costumes, light rentals. royalty fees, and so on.

There will be four performances of Talking With ..., which runs from opening day March 8 to March 11. On opening night, there will be a post-production reception in celebration of International Women's Day. Talking With... will be held at the Lady Dunn Hall beginning at 8 pm each evening. Tickets are available at the door, or in advance from Memorial Hall, the SUB office, or any people involved in the production. Students: \$4.00; Non-Students: \$6.00.



• Having a warm spray hit you in the back of the neck just as you're • Riding a rollercoaster with your arms flailing wildly over your head leaving the pet store. just as you pass under a low, metal support beam at the foot of the steepest hill. Waking up with a hangover to find Nancy Reagan under one arm and • The sound of a hacksaw across the Edwin Meese under the other.

hood of your new Porsche.

• Swallowing a live squid coated in · Having your lungs implode. turpentine.

· Wading neck-deep through a

laboratory animal disposal bin. · Being trapped on a crowded subway in mid-August with a

group of anti-hygiene protesters.

· Having Arnold Schwarzenegger

pull your bra strap back as far as he

• Having a wasp build a nest in your can, then release it.

· ear.

• Being hanged from a rubber tree. • Slicing your tongue in half (horizontally, of course) on a brand new envelope.

From Anything But Monday



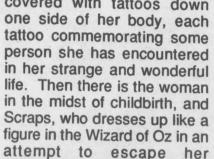


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"Bertha Chase makes up





David G. Harding

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